TENNESSEE
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

RESOLUTION OF THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION REGARDING EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY NASHVILLE

Whereas, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-101 et. seq., Empowerment Academy Nashville ("EAN") submitted an appeal on the denial of its new start charter school application by the Metro-Nashville Public Schools Board of Education dated August 7, 2026 to the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission ("Commission"), which is charged with serving as an appellate authorizer beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, and;

Whereas, the Commission's Charter Review Committee, conducted a capacity interview on September 11, 2026, at which time representatives of EAN provided responses to questions from members of the Review Committee, and;

Whereas, representatives of the sponsor of EAN participated in a public hearing on September 25, 2026 to answer questions of the Commission's designee and receive comment from members of the public in the proposed district, and;

Whereas, the Commission, at a quarterly meeting on October 9, 2026, reviewed, discussed, and considered the full appeal record, review committee report, and Executive Director's recommendation prior to voting on a decision;

Whereas, the Commission, determined the following findings of fact:

1. Approval of the amended application for Empowerment Academy Nashville does not create a substantial negative fiscal impact on the LEA such that authorization of the public charter school would be contrary to the best interests of the students, LEA, or community;
2. Empowerment Academy Nashville does not meet the standard for educational program design and capacity;
3. Empowerment Academy Nashville does not meet the standard for operations plan and capacity;
4. Empowerment Academy Nashville does not meet the standard for budget and finance; and,
5. Empowerment Academy Nashville does not meet the standard for the applicable addenda.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Tennessee Public Charter School Commission that the amended application for Empowerment Academy Nashville is denied, pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(5)(D).

Commissioner Eddie Smith moved for approval of the Resolution.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lauren Smith and, upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

1. Commissioner Michael A. Carter, Sr. voted aye;
2. Commissioner Thomas Griscom voted aye;
3. Commissioner Thomas Lehrman voted aye;
4. Commissioner Tom Marino voted aye;
5. Commissioner Terence Patterson voted aye;
6. Commissioner Eddie Smith voted aye;

7. Commissioner Lauren Smith voted aye;
8. Commissioner Christine Richards voted aye; and,
9. Commissioner Alan Levine was absent;

The Chair thereupon declared that the resolution was duly passed and adopted on this 9th day of October 2026.

In accordance with T.C.A. § 49-13-108(b)(5)(D), the decision of the Commission is final and not subject to appeal.

Christine Richards, Chair
Tennessee Public Charter School Commission